# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:176
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
CEMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Mollah Shri Hannan;Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a 'Cement Regulatory Authority' to control the cement prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by when it is likely to become functional; and

(c) the extent to which such authority is likely to be able to control the price rise of cement in the country?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 176 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2008 REGARDING CEMENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY

(a): No, Sir. The prices of cement increased sharply between December 2005 and March, 2007 due to mismatch between demand and supply. The Government took a number of measures to increase the supply of cement in the market to cater to increased demand. These include facilitating import by reducing the import duty on cement to 'Nil', removal of countervailing duty and special additional customs duty. Further, MMTC Ltd., a Government of India enterprise, TANCEM, a State Government enterprise of Tamil Nadu and M/s. Puducherry Agro Services Industries Corporation (PASIC) have been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 to enable availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market. With these measures, the average price of cement has stabilized to a large extent showing an increase of only 2.67% between March, 2007 and January, 2008.

(b) & (c): Do not arise.